



Australian Institute of Architects

MEDIA RELEASE

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What IS Tasmanian Architecture?

FREE pecha kucha event: 6 for 6:30pm Thursday 12 November

Playhouse Theatre, Bathurst St, Hobart

Hobart Architecture Week continues on Thursday night with the Institute of Architects Tasmanian Chapter asking, What is Tasmanian Architecture?

It is a question so broad that we're not expecting a straight answer, but it's an important question to ask as planning schemes are being overhauled across the state and investment in development is at a peak.

Tasmanian architects were confronted with this question in the 1960s when "curtain walls" (for example, LINC Tasmania) began sweeping the world by storm. As Peter Dermoudy, editor of the journal *Tasmanian Architect*, put it in 1960: "In Tasmania ... we have raw, masculine nature at both our front and back doors. Mountain scapes and seascapes that demand stone and brick, materials which bespeak the strength of man."

In 1962 Dermoudy encountered a distinctly Tasmanian architecture in Dirk Bolt's Christ College at the University of Tasmania. He called it "uncohesive, obvious, even characterless, but somehow TASMANIAN." In closing his critique of Christ College he also memorably wrote, "Somehow I hate this building for being a big, cold, concrete bastard, but I would like to be friends with it."

The Dorney House at Fort Nelson also figures strongly in the minds of many when it comes to Tasmanian architecture, as well as our convict-built heritage and the work of Robert Morris-Nunn on the Hobart waterfront and as far afield as Strahan and Saffire on the East Coast. Scale and terrain are also common concepts discussed. But what makes our buildings Tasmanian?

At this free event at the Playhouse Theatre on Thursday night we'll hear from:

- Leigh Woolley, renowned architect, urbanist and adjunct professor of Architecture and Design
- Laura McCusker, furniture maker
- Robert Morris-Nunn, architect
- Peta Heffernan, National Architecture Awards juror and director of Liminal Architecture
- Stuart Tanner, architect
- Judith Abell, architecture writer
- Stephen Last, architect
- Kathleen Flanagan, public housing researcher

Hobart Architecture Week is a mostly free festival celebrating the built environment in Hobart. Our main event, Open House Hobart, attracted approximately 9000 visits over two days 7-8 November.

For photo opportunities/media inquiries or to arrange interviews contact:

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The Australian Institute of Architects is an independent, voluntary, subscription-based member organisation with more than 12,000 members, of which around 330 are Tasmanian.